

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated January 5, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,798,743 (hereinafter "MA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,751,194 (hereinafter "UENO") and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0118691 A1 (hereinafter "LEFEBVRE"). The Examiner further rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MA in view of UENO and U.S. Patent No. 6,738,384 (hereinafter "CHUNG"). Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 14-20, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 8, 12 and 13.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Applicants have further amended claim 9 to include the subject matter of claim 12, which the Examiner has also indicated as being allowable. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1, and claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 9. Claims 5-7 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

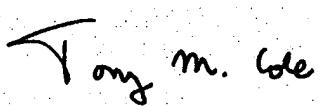
In paragraph 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MA in view of UENO and LEFEBVRE. Furthermore, in paragraph 3, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MA in view of UENO and CHUNG. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the subject matter of claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Applicants have further amended claim 9 to include the subject matter of claim 12, which the

Examiner has also indicated as being allowable. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 9 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4 and claims 10 and 11, which depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively, should also be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4, 10 and 11 is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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